

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. By this Response, claims 1 and 3 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication of claims 1-22 as containing allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Specifically, the Office Action alleges that an essential feature that corresponds to the recitation of “the delay time in transferring the specific information from the slave device through the at least one multiplexer to the master device and vice versa is substantially constant from each relay point within the at least one multiplexer” recited in claim 1, is not recited in the claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is improper as the allegations merely state that a clarification of the features recited in the claims which control the delay time as stated above is required. This type of correction to the claim at best is merely objectionable and should not be included in a 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection.

With that said, applicants have clarified the features recited in claim 1 by amending the claim to recite the feature of the master destined information selecting unit which is included in the multiplexer and controls the operation of transferring the specific information through the multiplexer to the master device.

Applicant respectfully submits that this additional element in the claim has been made to clarify the above noted recitation in claim 1. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the indication of claims 1-22 as containing allowable subject matter and the compliance of the claims to 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

Appl. No. 09/409,681

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s)